

2024 North Carolina State Office Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Nancy Curtis

District or Office: NC House District 120

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Retired

Questions for 2024 Candidates for State Office in North Carolina

1. The most rapid period of brain development happens in the first five years of life, laying the foundation for all future learning, health, and success in school and life. What are your views on the needs of young children (prenatal to age 5) and what steps would you take to address these needs?

I support paid family leave, child Healthcare (chips) head start, childcare for working mothers. As a state representative I will sponsor and vote for all bills that support these stances.

2. Every county in North Carolina is considered a "child care desert" with not enough supply to meet the demand. When parents do find child care, the average cost is nearly \$10,000/year, which is higher than the cost of public college tuition. What steps would you take to ensure that families have access to high-quality and affordable early learning programs for their children?

Fund it ! Absolutely no spending cuts in this program.

3. Currently, child care teachers in North Carolina earn an average of \$14/hour, less than most retail or service workers. Since 2021, federally-funded Child Care Compensation Grants have provided higher wages and bonuses to more than 40,000 North Carolina early educators, but that funding has expired. This summer, the NC General Assembly appropriated funds to extend the grants for a short time, while also recognizing the need to explore long-term solutions to attract and retain a qualified early childhood workforce. What steps would you take to stabilize and sustain North Carolina's early education system and child care workforce as we approach the end of Compensation Grant funding?

Make early childhood a part of the dept. of education and then fund public education. There is no reason why we can give pre school a community facility and proper staffing with a livable wage.

4. Working parents depend on child care, and businesses in nearly every sector have identified child care as a critical factor in their workforce challenges. A new study from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that insufficient child care is costing North Carolina about \$5.65 billion each year. What are your views on how the issues facing our state's child care system impact the state's economy? What specific steps would you take to ensure that our child care system can keep up with the demand as more working families need child care?

We need quality childcare and we need to provide the jobs and income to grow our state's economy. Women want and need to work to support their family. If needed we could have a tax to support this childcare.

5. North Carolina currently spends approximately 1% of the annual state budget on early childhood programs, including Smart Start, NC Pre-K, and Child Care Subsidy Assistance. Nearly all early childhood programs in every county of the state have waiting lists and only serve a fraction of eligible children and families. What are your goals for overall early childhood funding and/or what types of early childhood programs would you support making an investment in at the state level?

I think you can't approach this problem as "one size fits all" rural communities will need to be approached differently than Metropolitan areas. Funding has to increase. I believe a public/ private solution might be an option for funding. Business should step up to help with childcare for their employees and that could be rewarded on their taxation.

6. If elected, what would be your top 5 priorities for 2025?

Public education, affordable housing, women's reproduction rights, voting rights, rural job creation.

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